

HOUSE BILL 2280
By Casada

AN ACT to name State Route 840 in honor of Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways to honor those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this great land; and

WHEREAS, no American is more deserving of this honor than Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America ; and

WHEREAS, at the end of his two terms in office (1981-1989), Ronald Reagan had reinvigorated the American people, reduced their reliance upon the federal government, and fulfilled his campaign pledge to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism"; and

WHEREAS, dealing skillfully with the U.S. Congress during his Administration, President Reagan obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, increase employment, and strengthen national defense, while remaining true to a comprehensive course of cutting taxes and government expenditures; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, President Reagan obtained an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes. At the end of his Administration, the Nation was enjoying its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression; and

WHEREAS, in foreign policy, President Reagan sought to achieve "peace through strength;" he also worked to improve relations with the Soviet Union, and negotiated a treaty with the Soviet leader to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles; and

WHEREAS, by ordering naval escorts in the Persian Gulf, President Reagan maintained the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war; in keeping with the Reagan Doctrine, he gave support to anti-Communist insurgencies in Central America, Asia, and Africa; and

WHEREAS, overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of American prosperity, confidence, and patriotism, and President Reagan's legacy of courageous and forthright leadership still shines brightly today as a beacon of hope and sanity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, State Route 840 in its entirety, from its intersection with Interstate Highway 40 West in Dickson County to its intersection with Interstate Highway 40 East in Wilson County, including segments of such highway still under construction, is hereby designated the "Ronald Reagan Parkway" as a lasting tribute to one of the greatest Presidents this nation has ever known.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating State Route 840 as the "Ronald Reagan Parkway" in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3, 4 and 5.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5.

(1) This act shall become operative only if one (1) or more of the respective counties in Tennessee in which State Route 840 is located, the same being Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Hickman and Dickson counties, either remit the estimated cost

of the erection of such signs in the respective county to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufacture such signs in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2). The aforementioned county or counties shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the appropriate county or counties within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the appropriate county or counties shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(2) The aforementioned county or counties may manufacture and erect such signs, provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.

(3) The decision to fund or not fund the signs authorized by this act shall be on a county-by-county basis. The decision of one (1) county shall in no way impact the decisions of the remaining counties. Signs may be erected in one (1) or more of the aforementioned counties, depending upon the decision of each individual county; provided, however, at least one (1) of the aforementioned counties must elect to fund such signs in order for this act to become operative.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.